

Application No. 09/761,112
Amendment dated May 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2006

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Docket No.: 20042-7001

REMARKS

The Examiner's courtesy of a telephone interview on 5 January 2006 is greatly appreciated in which we discussed the invention, the claims, and the Novikov et al. reference. As discussed, the undersigned has refocused the pending claims on the disclosed invention for a biometrically controlled power gating system to control power to operating components of electrically powered devices. As noted in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mail 7 April 2006, the Examiner's notes reflect that our 5 January 2006 interview also included a discussion of "a removeable nature of the power gating access mechanism using hardware switch controlled by the biometric input and the built-in available interfaces to use the power-gate mechanism with other input devices to powerup the other devices."

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The claims have been amended to expressly focus on the power gating type biometric access control described in the patent application as originally filed. As set forth, a power gate is interposed between a device and a power source for the device. The power gate prevents actuation of components of the device until the biometric test is satisfied, after which the power gate is enabled to energize the protected components of the device. The Novikov et al. reference is similar to the prior art class of devices described in the application in which the electronic device (here the computer 50 or remote computer 51) participates in the evaluation of the biometric data (see, e.g., col. 5, lines 25-31) thus the computer's power is not gated by the biometric system as currently claimed.

In view of the above amendment and comments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance and further consideration is respectfully requested

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Respectfully submitted,

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